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INDIAN RECORD

March 1968

Special Issue -

President Johnson Presents Indian Message To Congress

THE FORGOTTEN AMERICAN

*The President's Message to the Congress on Goals and Programs
for the American Indian. March 6, 1968*

To the Congress of the United States:

Mississippi and Utah—the Potomac and the Chattahoochee—Appalachia and Shenandoah . . . The words of the Indian have become our words—the names of our states and streams and landmarks.

His myths and his heroes enrich our literature.

His lore colors our art and our language.

For two centuries, the American Indian has been a symbol of the drama and excitement of the earliest America.

But for two centuries, he has been an alien in his own land.

Relations between the United States Government and the tribes were originally in the hands of the War Department. Until 1871, the United States treated the Indian tribes as foreign nations.

It has been only 44 years since the United States affirmed the



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Indian's citizenship: the full political equality essential for human dignity in a democratic society.

It has been only 22 years since Congress enacted the Indian Claims Act, to acknowledge the Nation's debt to the first Americans for their land.

But political equality and compensation for ancestral lands are not enough. The American Indian deserves a chance to develop his talents and share fully in the future of our Nation.

There are about 600,000 Indians in America today. Some 400,000 live on or near reservations in 25 States. The remaining 200,000 have moved to our cities and towns. The most striking fact about the American Indians today is their tragic plight:

—Fifty thousand Indian families live in unsanitary, dilapidated dwellings: many in huts, shanties, even abandoned automobiles.

—The unemployment rate among Indians is nearly 40 percent—more than ten times the national average.

—Fifty percent of Indian schoolchildren—double the national average—drop out before completing high school.

—Indian literacy rates are among the lowest in the Nation; the rates of sickness and poverty are among the highest.

—Thousands of Indians who have migrated into the cities find themselves untrained for jobs and unprepared for urban life.

—The average age of death of an American Indian today is 44 years; for all other Americans, it is 65.

The American Indian, once proud and free, is torn now between white and tribal values; between the politics and language of the white man and his own historic culture. His problems, sharpened by years of defeat and exploitation, neglect and inadequate effort, will take many years to overcome.

But recent landmark laws—the Economic Opportunity Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Manpower Development and Training Act—have given us an opportunity to deal with the persistent problems of the American Indian. The time has come to focus our efforts on the plight of the American Indian through these and the other laws passed in the last few years.

No enlightened Nation, no responsible government, no progressive people can sit idly by and permit this shocking situation to continue.

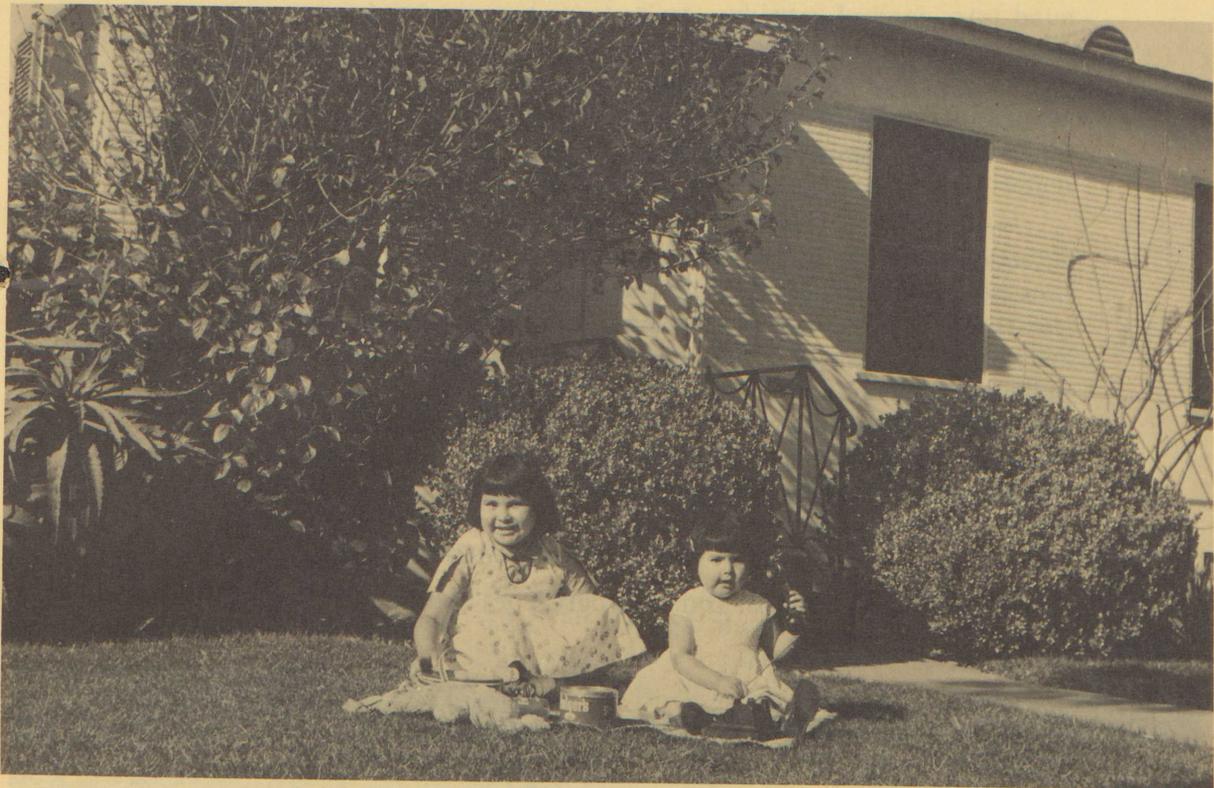
I propose a new goal for our Indian programs: A goal that ends the old debate about "termination" of Indian programs and stresses self-determination; a goal that erases old attitudes of paternalism and promotes partnership self-help.

Our goal must be:

—*A standard of living for the Indians equal to that of the country as a whole.*

—*Freedom of Choice: An opportunity to remain in their homelands, if they choose, without surrendering their dignity; an opportunity to move to the towns and cities of America, if they choose, equipped with the skills to live in equality and dignity.*

—*Full participation in the life of modern America, with a full share of economic opportunity and social justice.*



"Live in equality and dignity. . ." (Los Angeles, Calif.)

I propose, in short, a policy of maximum choice for the American Indian: a policy expressed in programs of self-help, self-development, self-determination.

To start toward our goal in Fiscal 1969, I recommend that the Congress appropriate one-half a billion dollars for programs targeted at the American Indian—about 10 percent more than Fiscal 1968.

STRENGTHENED FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

In the past four years, with the advent of major new programs, several agencies have undertaken independent efforts to help the American Indian. Too often, there has been too little coordination between agencies; and no clear, unified policy which applied to all.

To launch an undivided, Government-wide effort in this area, I am today issuing an Executive Order to establish a National Council on Indian Opportunity.

The Chairman of the Council will be the Vice President who will bring the problems of the Indians to the highest levels of Government. The Council will include a cross section of Indian leaders, and high government officials who have programs in this field:

- The Secretary of the Interior, who has primary responsibility for Indian Affairs.
- The Secretary of Agriculture, whose programs affect thousands of Indians.
- The Secretary of Commerce, who can help promote economic

development of Indian lands.

- The Secretary of Labor, whose manpower programs can train more Indians for more useful employment.
- The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who can help Indian communities with two of their most pressing needs—health and education.
- The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, who can bring better housing to Indian lands.
- The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, whose programs are already operating in several Indian communities.

The Council will review Federal programs for Indians, make broad policy recommendations, and ensure that programs reflect the needs and desires of the Indian people. Most important, I have asked the Vice President, as Chairman of the Council, to make certain that the American Indian shares fully in all our federal programs.

SELF-HELP AND SELF-DETERMINATION

The greatest hope for Indian progress lies in the emergence of Indian



Vice President Hubert L. Humphrey reiterates the determination of President Johnson to bring about wholesale improvement in Indian affairs at a press briefing in Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's office. This briefing followed release of the Presidential message. Attending the briefing were tribal officials, members of the press, and Bureau of Indian Affairs staff. Secretary Udall is seated at the Vice President's left.

leadership and initiative in solving Indian problems. Indians must have a voice in making the plans and decisions in programs which are important to their daily life.

Within the last few months we have seen a new concept of community development—a concept based on self-help—work successfully among Indians. Many tribes have begun to administer activities which Federal agencies had long performed in their behalf:

- On the Crow Creek, Lower Brule, and Fort Berthold reservations in the Dakotas and on reservations in several other states, imaginative new work-experience programs, operated by Indians themselves, provide jobs for Indians once totally dependent on welfare.
- The Warm Springs Tribes of Oregon ran an extensive program to repair flood damage on their reservation.
- The Oglala Sioux of South Dakota and the Zunis of New Mexico are now contracting to provide law enforcement services for their communities.
- The Navajos—who this year celebrate the 100th anniversary of their peace treaty with the United States—furnish many community services normally provided by the Federal government, either through contract or with funds from their own Treasury.

Passive acceptance of Federal service is giving way to Indian involvement. More than ever before, Indian needs are being identified from the Indian viewpoint—as they should be.

This principle is the key to progress for Indians—just as it has been for other Americans. If we base our programs upon it, the day will come when the relationship between Indians and the Government will be one of full partnership—not dependency.

EDUCATION

The problems of Indian education are legion:

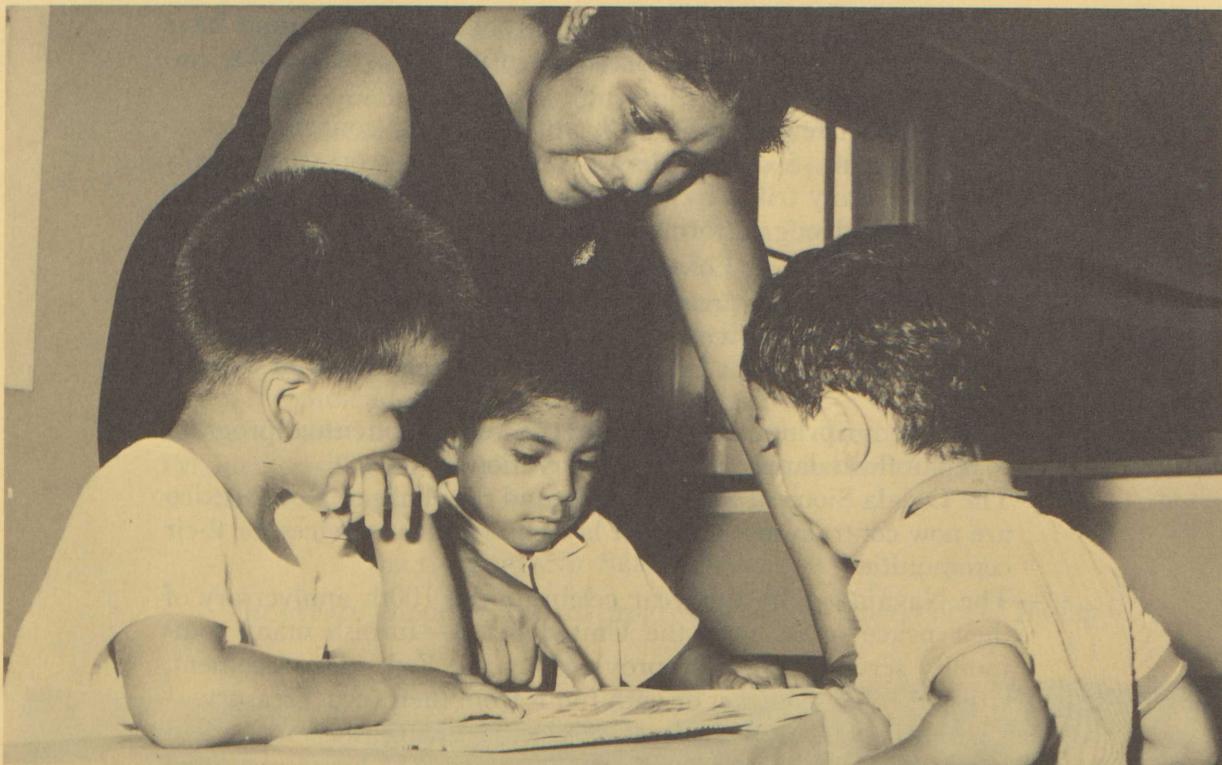
- Ten percent of American Indians over age 14 have had no schooling at all.
- Nearly 60 percent have less than an eighth grade education.
- Half of our Indian children do not finish high school today.
- Even those Indians attending school are plagued by language barriers, by isolation in remote areas, by lack of a tradition of academic achievement.

Standard schooling and vocational training will not be enough to overcome the educational difficulties of the Indians. More intensive and imaginative approaches are needed.

The legislation enacted in the past four years gives us the means to make the special effort now needed in Indian education: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Education Professions Development Act, the Vocational Education Act, and the Higher Education Act.

The challenge is to use this legislation creatively.

I have directed the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare:



"These schools will have the finest teachers. . . (Ft. Mohave, Ariz.)

- To work together to make these programs responsive to the needs of Indians.*
- To develop a concentrated effort in Indian education with State and local agencies.* This is critical if the two-thirds of Indian school children in non-Indian public schools are to get the special help they sorely need.

Pre-School Programs

In the past few years we as a Nation have come to recognize the irreplaceable importance of the earliest years in a child's life. Pre-school education and care—valuable for all children—are urgently needed for Indian children.

We must set a goal to enroll every four and five-year-old Indian child in a pre-school program by 1971.

For 1969, I am requesting funds to:

- Make the Head Start Program available to 10,000 Indian children.*
- Establish, for the first time, kindergartens for 4,500 Indian youngsters next September.*

To encourage Indian involvement in this educational process, I am asking the Secretary of the Interior to assure that each of these kindergartens employ local Indian teacher aides as well as trained teachers.

Federal Indian Schools

Since 1961, we have undertaken a substantial program to improve

the 245 Federal Indian schools, which are attended by over 50,000 children. That effort is now half completed. It will continue.

But good facilities are not enough.

I am asking the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to establish a model community school system for Indians. These schools will:

- Have the finest teachers, familiar with Indian history, culture and language.
- Feature an enriched curriculum, special guidance and counseling programs, modern instruction materials, and a sound program to teach English as a second language.
- Serve the local Indian population as a community center for activities ranging from adult education classes to social gatherings.

To reach this goal, I propose that the Congress appropriate \$5.5 million to attract and hold talented and dedicated teachers at Indian schools and to provide 200 additional teachers and other professionals to enrich instruction, counseling and other programs.

To help make the Indian school a vital part of the Indian community, I am directing the Secretary of the Interior to establish Indian school boards for Federal Indian Schools. School board members—selected by their communities—will receive whatever training is necessary to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

Higher Education

Indian youth must be given more opportunities to develop their talents fully and to pursue their ambitions free of arbitrary barriers to learning and employment. They must have a chance to become professionals: doctors, nurses, engineers, managers and teachers.

For the young Indian of today will eventually become the bridge between two cultures, two languages, and two ways of life.

Therefore, we must open wide the doors of career training and higher education to all Indian students who qualify.

To reach this goal:

—I am requesting \$3 million in Fiscal 1969 for college scholarship grants, to include for the first time living allowances for Indian students and their families to help capable young Indians meet the costs of higher education.



Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, right, discusses a point of the President's Message to Congress on American Indians with the Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey at the Department of the Interior.



"Encourage light industry on Indian reservations. . ." (Laguna, N. M.)

—I am asking the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to make a special and sustained effort to assure that our regular scholarship and loan programs are available to Indian high school graduates.

—I am asking the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity to establish a special Upward Bound program for Indian high school students.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

The health level of the American Indian is the lowest of any major population group in the United States:

- The infant mortality rate among Indians is 34.5 per 1,000 births—12 points above the National average.
- The incidence of tuberculosis among Indians and Alaska natives is about five times the National average.
- More than half of the Indians obtain water from contaminated or potentially dangerous sources, and use waste disposal facilities that are grossly inadequate.
- Viral infections, pneumonia, and malnutrition—all of which contribute to chronic ill health and mental retardation—are common among Indian children.

We have made progress. Since 1963:

- The infant death rate has declined 21 percent.
- Deaths from tuberculosis are down 29 percent.
- The number of outpatient visits to clinics and health centers rose 16 percent.

But much more remains to be done.

I propose that the Congress increase health programs for Indians by about ten percent, to \$112 million in Fiscal 1969, with special emphasis on child health programs.

But if we are to solve Indian health problems, the Indian people themselves must improve their public health and family health practices. This will require a new effort to involve Indian families in a crusade for better health.

Recent experience demonstrates that Indians have been successful in working side by side with health professionals:

- They have organized tribal health committees to review Indian health problems and design programs for solving them.
- They have launched new programs in sanitation, mental health, alcoholism, and accident control.
- A cooperative Indian-government project to provide safe water and disposal systems for 44,000 Indians and Alaska native families has proved successful. For every Federal dollar spent, Indian Americans have contributed another 40 cents in labor, materials and actual funds.

I am directing the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to build a "community participation" component into every Federal health program for Indians which lends itself to this approach.

Essential to this effort will be a large, well-trained corps of community health aides drawn from the Indian population: nursing assistants, health record clerks, medical-social aides and nutrition workers. These community health aides can greatly assist professional health workers in bringing health services to Indian communities.

I recommend that the Congress appropriate funds to train and employ more than 600 new community Indian health aides in the Public Health Service.

These aides will serve nearly 200,000 Indians and Alaska natives in their home communities, teaching sound health practices to the Indian people in several critical fields: pre-natal health, child care, home sanitation and personal hygiene.

Our goal is first to narrow, then to close the wide breach between the health standards of Indians and other Americans. But before large investments in Federally-sponsored health services can pay lasting dividends, we must build a solid base of Indian community action for better health.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The plight of the Indians gives grim testimony to the devastating effects of unemployment on the individual, the family, and the community:

- Nearly 40 percent of the labor force on Indian lands is chronically unemployed, compared with a national unemployment rate of 3.5 percent.
- Of the Indians who do work, a third are underemployed in temporary or seasonal jobs.
- Fifty percent of Indian families have cash incomes below \$2,000

a year; 75 percent have incomes below \$3,000.

With rare exception, Indian communities are so underdeveloped that there is little, if any, opportunity for significant social or economic progress.

Two percent of all the land in the United States is Indian land. Indian lands are about the size of all the New England States and a small slice of New York. But many of their resources—oil, gas, coal, uranium, timber, water—await development.

The economic ills of Indian areas can have a major impact upon neighboring regions as well. It is not only in the best interests of the Indians, but of the entire Nation, to expand Indian economic opportunity.

Jobs

Special employment programs have been established to help meet the needs of Indians. In 1967 alone, more than 10,000 men and women received training and other help to get jobs under the Indian Bureau's programs—double the number served four years ago. These programs:

—Provide all-expenses-paid training and placement for Indian adults.

—Develop projects in cooperation with private industry, in which families prepare together for the transition from welfare dependency to useful, productive work.

To meet the increasing demand, I propose that the Indian Vocational Training Program be expanded to the full authorization of \$25 million in Fiscal 1969—nearly double the funds appropriated last year.

In the State of the Union message, I proposed a 25 percent increase—to \$2.1 billion—in our manpower training programs for Fiscal 1969.

As a part of this effort, I have asked the Secretary of Labor to expand the Concentrated Employment Program to include Indian reservations.

Area Development

The economic development of potentially productive Indian areas suffers from a lack of base capital to permit Indians to take advantage of sound investment op-



Left to right at the press briefing in the Department of the Interior on the President's Message to Congress: John Belindo, executive secretary of the National Congress of American Indians; Mrs. Georgia A. Robinson, Osage; Mrs. Elvina Greybear, Sioux; Mrs. Helen Mitchell, Quinalt; Robert L. Bennett, Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey; Sarah Ann Johnson, Miss Indian America XIV; Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall; and Wendell Chino, chairman, National Congress of American Indians.

portunities and to attract private capital.

The Indian Resources Development Act, now pending before Congress, contains provisions to spark this kind of investment.

The central feature of this Act is an authorization of \$500 million for an Indian loan guaranty and insurance fund and for a direct loan revolving fund.

These funds would:

- Provide the foundation for the economic development of Indian lands.
- Encourage light industry to locate on or near Indian reservations.
- Permit better development of natural resources.
- Encourage development of the tourist potential on many reservations.

The Indian Resources Development Act would also permit the issuance of Federal corporate charters to Indian tribes or groups of Indians. This charter gives them the means to compete with other communities in attracting outside investment.

I urge the Congress to enact this program for the economic development of Indian resources.

Roads for Economic Development

Without an adequate system of roads to link Indian areas with the rest of our Nation, community and economic development, Indian self-help programs, and even education cannot go forward as rapidly as they should.

Large areas inhabited by Indians are virtually inaccessible. For example, on the vast Navajo-Hopi area there are only 30 percent as many miles of surfaced roads per 1,000 square miles as in rural areas of Arizona and New Mexico.

The woefully inadequate road systems in Indian areas must be improved. Good roads are desperately needed for economic development. And good roads may someday enable the Indian people to keep their young children at home, instead of having to send them to far-away boarding schools.

I propose an amendment to the Federal Highway Act increasing the authorization for Indian road construction to \$30 million annually beginning in Fiscal 1970.

ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Housing

Most Indian housing is far worse than the housing in many slums of our large cities.

To begin our attack on the backlog of substandard housing:

- I have asked the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to increase Indian home construction by an additional 1,000 units this coming year, for a total of 2,500 annually.
- I propose that the Congress double the Fiscal 1968 appropriations—to \$6 million in 1969—for a broad home improvement program.

These steps are a strong start toward improving living conditions among Indians, while we deal with the underlying causes of inadequate

housing. But the present housing law is too rigid to meet the special needs and conditions of our Indian population.

I am therefore submitting legislation to open the door for more Indians to receive low-cost housing aid, and to extend the loan programs of the Farmers Home Administration to tribal lands.

In addition:

- The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development will review construction standards for Indian homes to ensure flexibility in design and construction of Indian housing.
- The Secretaries of the Interior and Housing and Urban Development will explore new low-cost techniques of construction suitable to a stepped-up Indian housing program.

Community Action

Programs under the Economic Opportunity Act have improved morale in Indian communities. They have given tribes new opportunities to plan and carry out social and economic projects. Community action programs, particularly Head Start, deserve strong support.

I am asking the Congress to provide \$22.7 million in Fiscal 1969 for these important efforts.

Water and Sewer Projects

Shorter life expectancy and higher infant mortality among Indians are caused in large part by unsanitary water supplies and contamination



"Encourage development of tourist potential. . ." (Miccosukee, Fla. restaurant)

from unsafe waste disposal.

The Federal Government has authority to join with individual Indians to construct these facilities on Indian lands. The government contributes the capital. The Indian contributes the labor.

To step up this program, I recommend that the Congress increase appropriations for safe water and sanitary waste disposal facilities by 30 percent—from \$10 million in Fiscal 1968 to \$13 million in Fiscal 1969.

CIVIL RIGHTS

A Bill of Rights for Indians

In 1934, Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act, which laid the groundwork for democratic self-government on Indian reservations. This Act was the forerunner of the tribal constitutions—the charters of democratic practice among the Indians.

Yet few tribal constitutions include a bill of rights for individual Indians. The basic individual rights which most Americans enjoy in relation to their government—enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States—are not safeguarded for Indians in relation to their tribes.

A new Indian Rights Bill is pending in the Congress. It would protect the individual rights of Indians in such matters as freedom of speech and religion, unreasonable search and seizure, a speedy and fair trial, and the right to habeas corpus. The Senate passed an Indian Bill of Rights last year. *I urge the Congress to complete action on that Bill of Rights in the current session.*

In addition to providing new protection for members of tribes, this bill would remedy another matter of grave concern to the American Indian.

Fifteen years ago, the Congress gave to the States authority to extend their criminal and civil jurisdictions to include Indian reservations—where jurisdiction previously was in the hands of the Indians themselves.

Fairness and basic democratic principles require that Indians on the affected lands have a voice in deciding whether a State will assume legal jurisdiction on their land.

I urge the Congress to enact legislation that would provide for tribal consent before such extensions of jurisdiction take place.

OFF-RESERVATION INDIANS

Most of us think of Indians as living in their own communities—geographically, socially and psychologically remote from the main current of American life.

Until World War II, this was an accurate picture of most Indian people. Since that time, however, the number of Indians living in towns and urban centers has increased to 200,000.

Indians in the towns and cities of our country have urgent needs for education, health, welfare, and rehabilitation services, which are far greater than that of the general population.

These needs can be met through Federal, State and local programs. *I am asking the new Council on Indian Opportunity to study this prob-*

lem and report to me promptly on actions to meet the needs of Indians in our cities and towns.

ALASKAN NATIVE CLAIMS

The land rights of the native people of Alaska—the Aleuts, Eskimos and Indians—have never been fully or fairly defined.

Eighty-four years ago, Congress protected the Alaska natives in the use and occupancy of their lands. But then, and again when Alaska was given statehood, Congress reserved to itself the power of final decision on ultimate title.

It remains our unfinished task to state in law the terms and conditions of settlement, so that uncertainty can be ended for the native people of Alaska.

Legislation is now pending to resolve this issue. I recommend prompt action on legislation to:

- Give the native people of Alaska title to the lands they occupy and need to sustain their villages.
- Give them rights to use additional lands and water for hunting, trapping and fishing to maintain their traditional way of life, if they so choose.
- Award them compensation commensurate with the value of any lands taken from them.

THE FIRST AMERICANS

The program I propose seeks to promote Indian development by improving health and education, encouraging long-term economic growth, and strengthening community institutions.

Underlying this program is the assumption that the Federal government can best be a responsible partner in Indian progress by treating the Indian himself as a full citizen, responsible for the pace and direction of his development.

But there can be no question that the government and the people of the United States have a responsibility to the Indians.

In our efforts to meet that responsibility, we must pledge to respect fully the dignity and the uniqueness of the Indian citizen.

That means partnership—not paternalism.

We must affirm the right of the first Americans to remain Indians while exercising their rights as Americans.

We must affirm their right to freedom of choice and self-determination.

We must seek new ways to provide Federal assistance to Indians—with new emphasis on Indian self-help and with respect for Indian culture.

And we must assure the Indian people that it is our desire and intention that the special relationship between the Indian and his government grow and flourish.

For, the first among us must not be last.

I urge the Congress to affirm this policy and to enact this program.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

The White House
March 6, 1968

Vice-President Says Indian Council To Coordinate Attack on Indian Problems

(Editor's note: The following are the remarks made by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, introduced by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, at a special briefing at the Interior Department for Indian leaders and the press on the day, March 6, of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Special Message to Congress on American Indians. Following the Vice President's remarks are the remarks made earlier in the day by Secretary Udall at a White House press briefing on the Message.)



Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey shakes hands with Miss Indian America XIV at the press briefing on the President's Message to Congress on Indians at the Department of the Interior at which he spoke.

to the American community, and to our Indian people in particular, as any message I have ever read. I know of the tremendous amount of effort put

Secretary Udall: Here is a man that has enough enthusiasm and drive to make anything go. One of the best things in this message is the fact that the Vice President of the United States, for the first time in history, is going to quarterback and orchestrate the whole Indian effort. Mr. Vice President, we look forward to working with you. The people in this room who will be on this council and I want to welcome you here this morning. These are the leaders selected by the Indian tribes across the country. This is their organization. They are here, and we will let you say whatever you want to say.

Vice President Humphrey: Thank you, Secretary Udall, and my fellow Americans. You are very fortunate, I can't talk to you very long. I must be over to a meeting at the White House shortly.

When this message was in its early stages of preparation I was as enthusiastic about the impact of this message, what it meant

into the message by the President of the United States, and his personal attention to it. And by the Secretary of the Interior and by all those closely associated with him in this Department. And throughout the Government.

The important thing about the message is that it doesn't leave the well-being and opportunities of people of Indian origins to just one branch of Government or one office of Government. The National Council on Indian Opportunity represents for the first time a coordinated effort of all the resources of the Federal Government, working in partnership with the Indian people themselves for the development of the great potential of human resources that are in this country in your people.

Now I happen to be privileged under Executive Order and under the terms of this message to chair the National Council on Indian Opportunity. The Vice President can serve in that capacity as a coordinator of activities and resources in our Government. But we have learned here in Washington that if you are going to get something done, you must bring to bear upon the problem the total resources of the Government plus the resources of the overall community. And particularly those who are deeply involved in the program.

For example, I happen to chair the National Aeronautics and Space Council, which deals with all the activities of Space and aeronautics, everything in the field of defense and research, of space, including our Apollo program, the flight to the moon, the astronauts, all of that is coordinated under the Space and Aeronautics Council. So there is not duplication of effort; so that there is maximum input of the Government's resources and the private sector toward one goal -- in that instance, American pre-eminence, America in first place in space research in the world.

Secretary Udall serves as a member on the Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development. This relates to all the matters concerning our great lakes and our oceans and seas. The development of food from the sea, the improvement of navigation, the exploration for minerals and fuel from the bed of the sea -- so for the first time we are bringing together all of the resources of our Government in the concerted effort to get maximum development of those great resources. Now we are doing exactly the same thing here now on Indian Opportunity. I think that the message the President has given to us is a charter of new freedom and new opportunity for the American Nation because the Indian people, the original Americans, the authentic Americans, are a vital part of this Nation. And if ever there was a challenge to the Government, and to the people themselves, it's in this message.

I've read every line of this message several times. I've looked over the summary of the principal objectives as outlined by the President -- the importance that the President placed upon the right of the first Americans to remain Indians while exercising their rights as Americans. This is a wonderful thing about the United States -- we don't all have to be alike. There is a sophisticated phrase -- "pluralistic society." Many, many, many -- but yet a unity out of the many. And the Indian's right to freedom of choice and self-determination -- this is the purpose of America. Freedom of choice and self-determination.

Our intention is to seek new ways to provide Federal assistance to Indians while placing new emphasis on self-help, self-respect for Indian culture. The whole concept today of development is not just Federal assistance, but self-help, the way the Government can be a partner, not a dominating partner, but an assisting partner. Your leadership -- and it is right here in this great room, I see some of you that I know personally, and I am glad to welcome my old friend Roger Jourdain from Minnesota -- it is with your leadership and your effort plus what the Federal Government can do that we are really going to get things done.

Now we have a great program here of the expansion of our preschool programs, and the emphasis on vocational training and the emphasis on model community school systems for Indian children -- great emphasis on training of the young, and I think that every parent here knows how important that is. And then the emphasis on bringing the people into the economic lifeline of this Nation, not just as an accidental development, but as a premeditated program.

I want to tell you that you can be assured of one thing. My friends who have worked with me before in this area know of my deep concern about the lack of opportunity that all too often characterize our Indian people. The lack of equal opportunity. Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to make doubly sure that equal opportunity is not just a phrase in a message but it is a living fact in the life of a people.

That's only the reason I wanted to be in politics. I can tell you that there isn't a day in my life that I say, "Is it worth it all?" And as the pressure gets on you more and more in public life, you grow a little older, you wonder, "Why in the world should I stick around and do all these things?" You've got children and grandchildren, and you've got a nice home, and maybe you just ought to go out and get yourself a job teaching school again, or go back to the family drug-store, or get another job and just enjoy life. But you become committed, like most of us, most of us do what we are doing because we are committed in spirit, not in our sense of economic need but in spirit -- total commitment -- I'm in public life for one reason and one reason alone: Because I believe in the development of human resources.

I believe the most precious thing on this earth is a human being. I believe that a human being is an expression of God Almighty. And I believe that the purpose of the democratic government is the development of the resources and potential of the human being -- and I mean all human beings. Because there isn't any one of us, any ethnic group, any cultural group but what has something great to contribute to the total community, to the entire nation. And if we can release these capacities that are in our children if we can release the potential, develop the potential that is in each and every one of us -- just think how much better an America we are going to have.

My final word to you is this: You know we Americans like to think that we have a mission in this world -- a mission of helping people to help themselves -- a mission of freedom, of self-determination, a mission to see that people are not attacked and the victims of aggression. We feel very strong-

ly about these things. A mission of trying to do something about the poverty of the world -- and there is so much poverty and sickness.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we can't do it at home, we can't do it anyplace else. Now that's a simple fact. The best foreign policy is an effective working domestic policy. If we can prove here at home that those who up to now who have been helpless can be helped, that those who have been unemployed can be employed, that those who are illiterate can be educated, that those who were sick can be healed, that those who are poor can be brought into the fullness of life -- if we can prove that here, we will have had the greatest victory that the world has ever known.

And by example we will have demonstrated that it can be done elsewhere. But if we can't do it here with what we have to do with, and believe me, we have a lot, if we fail here at home on the War against Poverty, if we fail here at home in this Adventure in Opportunity (which I like to call it) what makes you think we can do it any place else? What makes you think anybody else can do it any place else?

So we are on the spot -- not just for ourselves -- but for the whole world. I think every day the eyes of the world are focused upon us -- upon our mistakes and upon our achievements. So let's minimize our mistakes. Let's maximize our achievements, and I look forward to the privilege of working with you.

Udall Hails LBJ's 'Bold Action Charter'

SECRETARY UDALL: First, I would like to invite any of you who may be interested in going into further depth on this or doing background on it, the National Congress of American Indians, which is the Indians' own organization -- organized 20 years ago -- is meeting in Washington right now. I am having a session with them to which the press is invited shortly after 11 o'clock. Vice President Humphrey will be there.

If any of you want to go over with us, I am sure you will be able to get comments from the Indian people themselves and hear discussions of it.

I will just underscore three or four things. This is the first message that any President has ever sent on Indians.

To my way of thinking, after seven years of responsibility in this field, it is a very bold action charter. I have already told my people, "We had better brace ourselves because the Indians are going to be quoting back to us what the President said and what goals he set forth."

It certainly gives us an action focus that we have not had in the past.

An important part of this message to call your attention to is on page 2: "I propose a new goal for our Indian programs." I think this is the essence of it. I think it is a clear-cut statement, and a brutally honest appraisal of the plight of the American Indian.

I talked again with the Vice President this morning. I think one of the very important things is the Indian Council. Vice President Humphrey is very enthusiastic about taking on this responsibility. We are marshalling the resources of the Federal Government rather than looking for the Indian Bureau to do the job.

A decade ago, probably 85 or 90 percent of the money for the Indians came from the Indian Bureau. In the Budget we have just sent up, it is 53 percent. HUD, the Public Health Service, HEW, OEO -- all these new initiatives are the result of the last few years.

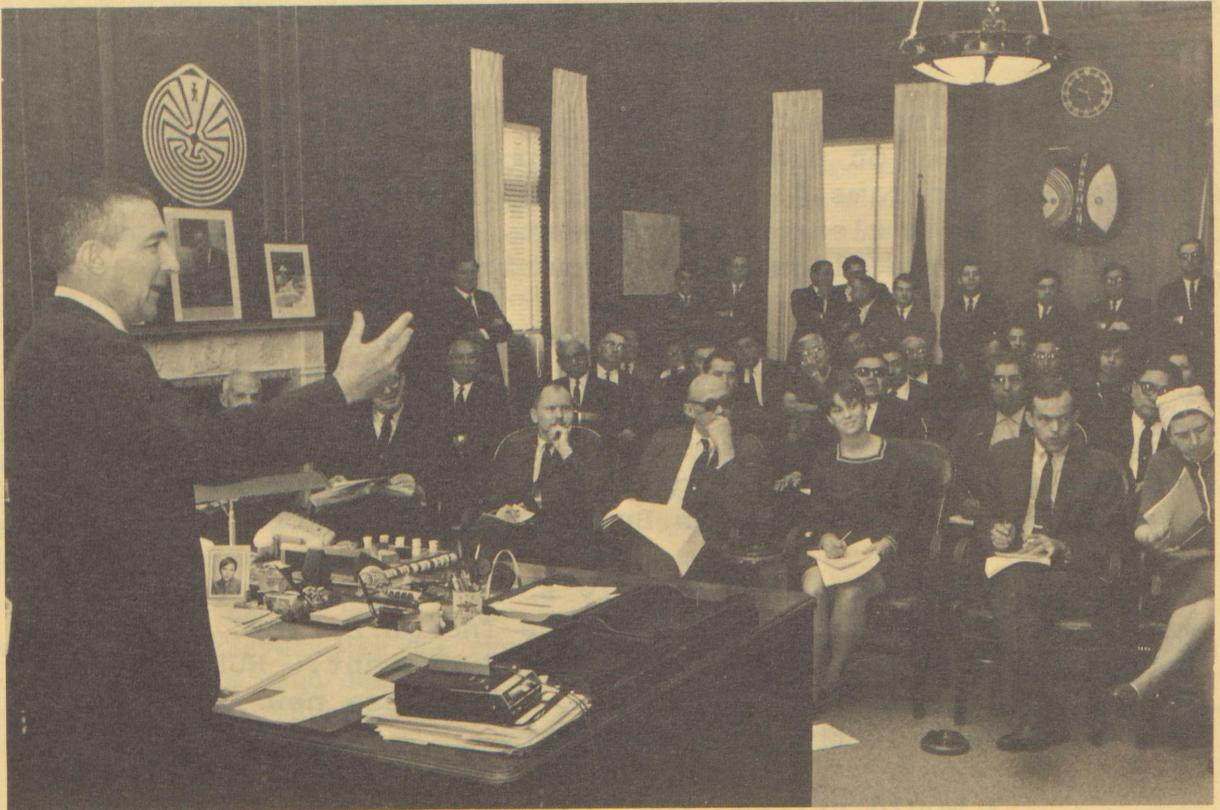
I would stress, too, that I think the President has given a priority budget-wise to the people programs. The only significant increase I got in my Department was for the Indian programs and the trust for the Pacific.

I would call attention to one other matter that is far reaching and again represents an initiative that has been long lacking. There are 45,000 natives in Alaska, Eskimos, Aleuts, et cetera. They are 20 percent of the population in Alaska.

This is the only Indian group that has not had the right up to now -- we have ducked that tough problem -- of having a decision made as to whether they were given land and given the right to assert claims to the United States for lands that were taken from them.

We have legislation proposed for the Congress and the President gives a ringing endorsement of it. I think this can have a tremendous influence in the State of Alaska.

The only other thing I would add -- and this fits in with the new initiative the President has proposed -- from the standpoint of it, the quality of the American Indian leadership that is coming forth today -- they are assertive



Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall answers a question at a press briefing in the Department of the Interior on the President's Message to Congress on Indians.

and want more responsibility. This fits in with the President's message.

I tried this out with all my people today. I said I didn't want to say anything that was not honest historically, that the initiative here as well as the initiative of the last few years -- I think as far as doing more for the American Indian and doing right by the American Indians is comparable to only one period: The first years of the New Deal with the John Collier Administration where President Roosevelt changed the whole focus of Indian action.

Q Mr. Secretary, it would appear that this message -- and I would like you to comment -- takes the position that the Indian is now to be taken away from his own culture and integrated into the American culture. This is a pretty strong policy decision.

I am wondering if the Indians want this or if this

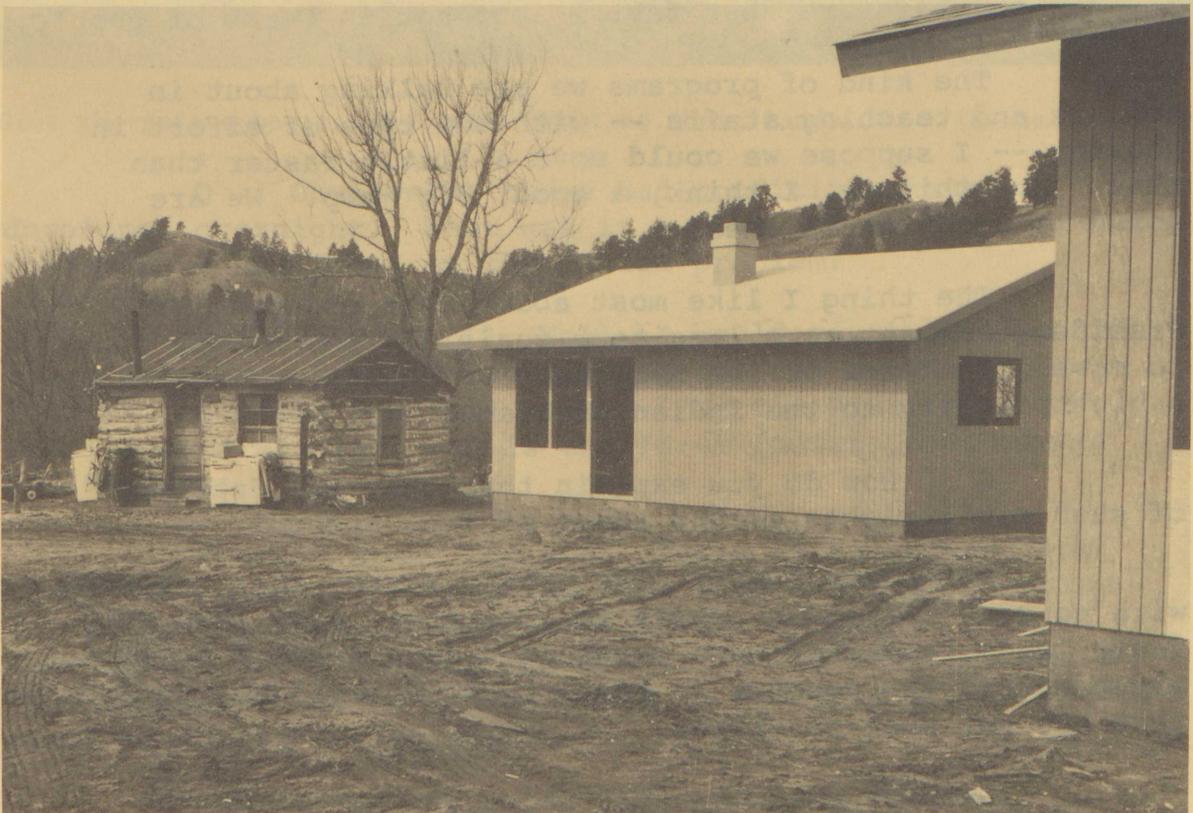
is what you intend?

SECRETARY UDALL: I think you had better read the first two pages. This is not what the President is doing. It is the freedom of choice that they are being given. This is the whole philosophy behind this program; that in a diverse society such as ours, the Indian ought to have a choice.

If they want to -- and feel they are qualified to -- move into the larger cities and get training, we will give them that opportunity. If they want to remain with their people and cling to their traditions, we will help them do that.

Q Have they always had that option?

SECRETARY UDALL: Not in the same way. There has been a great deal of confusion -- all of the confusion of the 1950's -- where the programs seemed to be termination. The Federal Government was trying to get out of the Indian business.



"Attack the backlog of substandard housing. . ." (Rosebud, S. D.)

The question was: Are the Indians ready to go on their own?

The essence of this program is diversity and freedom of choice. The President has laid it down very carefully.

Q How much is the President asking for in this message?

SECRETARY UDALL: The total figure is a 10 percent increase in the Indian programs: \$500 million total.

Q I know that you are interested in the American Indian. You are increasing 10 percent. The situation, as it stands now, is ridiculously horrible for the American Indian. What do you hope to accomplish with a 10 percent increase?

SECRETARY UDALL: I think as you will always find, this is the answer when you get to people program -- whether it is the Peace Corps or anything else. You had better not scale up too big a jump, or you won't have the people. You can buy hardware that fast -- but not in terms of people.

The kind of programs we are talking about in schools and teaching staffs -- with the type of effort in housing -- I suppose we could move a little faster than this. But this is, I think, a good, big jump. We are going to need future ones.

The thing I like most about this message: The President has set some long-term goals and set a path on which to move. In terms of the budgetary situation, we are giving a high priority to the Indian programs.

Q How do you explain that they are deprived of such civil rights as the right of free speech?

SECRETARY UDALL: The treaty system that was used with so many Indians -- where we gave them lands that were their lands, and they were recognized as a sort of sovereign group within the country -- has created a legal status problem that has not been clarified.

Senator Ervin's bill, which was passed in the Senate, would clarify that the Constitution's Bill of Rights does apply on the reservation.



"Give the native people of Alaska title to their lands . . . (Eskimo children)

Q Obviously, these bad conditions have not developed overnight. What was it a year and a half ago that caused this new focus on the Indian problem?

SECRETARY UDALL: Well, I would say that when the new initiative began, I would trace it back to the appointment -- two years ago this month -- by the President, of Commissioner Bennett, who is the first Indian Commissioner in 100 years.

General Grant had one. There is an interesting story behind that. I think we find a quickening of action all along the line, culminating in this message. I think that myself and all of my top people in the last two years just realized that we had to scale up and give a much higher priority in the Indian effort.

SECRETARY UDALL: We have had a whole series of actions. I think I can say very candidly that this is not the first President who set up an Indian Message, but the

President also gave more support to the Indian proposals.

You can compare FDR and the thrust in the Indian area, but I think what we have now does represent a new jump forward.

Q You said approximately 2,000 Indians are living in the cities. Have they been involved in any of the riots in the cities?

SECRETARY UDALL: No; not to my knowledge. I don't have a responsibility for them once they move into the cities. I cannot follow them. Those who have moved into the cities, in the main, have moved in under our relocation programs. We take them by the hand and give them a training program.

We help accommodate them to big city living; we have had considerable success. I don't want you to think that they are all living in abject poverty in the cities. Many are holding down good jobs and doing very well -- but there still is room for improvement in this area.

Q Mr. Secretary, as someone who has looked at the in-fighting from time to time, it strikes me that the significant thing about this is that these other agencies --- OEO and HEW -- seem to be winning the battle for a bigger role, and the Indian Bureau position seems to be slipping.

I wonder if this is evidence of the way the money will be divided up. There is an overall increase of 10 percent, but perhaps the Indian Bureau share is going to be less than 10 percent.

SECRETARY UDALL: This was the intent. We have been trying to pull the other agencies in. We have been trying to get the other agencies to do more, not less. The Indian Bureau portion of the Budget is probably 57 percent. Five years ago, it was 70 percent. Five years ago, we had no OEO; the more they do, the better. The more Public Health Service, the more we applaud.

We are not hostile to this. I think it is great. The Indians are communities. They are people and they should have the benefits of all the Federal programs.

Q Could you relate the numbers to the 10

percent increase over fiscal '68?

SECRETARY UDALL: Most of the 10 percent increase will be larger in the non-Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Q What about the Bureau itself? Has it gone up?

SECRETARY UDALL: It has gone up throughout all of the Sixties. There is some substantial increase in the Indian Bureau this year. In my total budget, the Indian Bureau has the largest increase.

MR. CALIFANO /Ed. note: Presidential assistant/
If you want a breakdown, I have one.
Bureau of Indian Affairs will be \$294 million in fiscal '69. That is an increase from \$257 million in fiscal '68.

The others -- Indian health in HEW goes from \$102 million in fiscal '68 to \$112 million in fiscal '69. The OEO, HUD, Labor, Agriculture, Commerce, HEW, and Interior Fisheries and Wildlife programs are at about \$110 million in fiscal '69. That is an increase from roughly \$100 million in fiscal '68. This gives you about \$460 million in '68 and about \$516 million in fiscal '69.

Q What about the roads?

SECRETARY UDALL: Roads is \$20 million this year. This is one of the areas that we had to fight. In terms of the nation spending \$16 billion on roads, they don't get more than 2 percent of the money the President proposes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.



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Commissioner's Comments

LBJ Message Adds Luster To Indian Future

During the last year I have said on several occasions that the outlook for the future for Indians was never brighter.

This frank and forceful message by President Johnson adds new luster to the shining future possibilities for the Indians.

I am confident of continued Indian progress because Indian people and their leaders are becoming increasingly able to recognize and take advantage of opportunities on their own and to implement many of the plans which they have made by their own decisions.

This confidence is reinforced in the charter the President gives to the National Council on Indian Opportunity -- to make broad policy recommendations and ensure that programs reflect the needs and desires of the Indian people themselves.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will pursue a course in which it cooperates with other Government agencies and tribal councils for the greatest impact by available programs for the betterment of Indians.

In doing this we will involve tribal councils and the Indians themselves to the greatest possible extent. Our programs are directed toward Indian self-involvement, self-help, self-development and self-determination with the intent of carrying out the policy stated by President Johnson to provide maximum choice for the American Indian.

These programs will bring about more Indian involvement in making plans and decisions in programs affecting their daily life than ever before and President Johnson calls for full speed ahead in this direction -- toward the day when the relationship between Indians and the Government will be one of full partnership -- not dependency.

I also want to emphasize the President's demand for a new and clear goal for our Indian programs -- a goal, in the President's words, "that erases old attitudes of paternalism and promotes self-determination."



Sarah Ann Johnson, Miss Indian America XIV watches the Department of the Interior press briefing on the President's Message to Congress on Indians with Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett.

NCAI Chairman's Goals Parallel Message

(Editor's note: The following is the statement of Wendell Chino, President of the National Congress of American Indians, at the press briefing on President Lyndon B. Johnson's Indian Message held by Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey and Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.)

Mr. Vice President and Mr. Secretary, the Members of the National Congress of American Indians are deeply grateful for the invitation extended to us to meet with you and convey to you the concerns and hopes of the American Indians.

After many years of frustrations and struggles by our people -- we are thankful for the changes that have been made to improve the social and economic conditions under the present administration. These changes have given us new hope and encouragement to pursue greater goals for our people.

However, there are few remaining areas in Indian, Federal and State



Wendell Chino, chairman, National Congress of American Indians, responds to the President's Message to Congress at a briefing in Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's office. At the same time he presents a program of action for Indian development that is supported by the National Congress of American Indians. Chino is also president of the Mescalero Apache Tribal Council.

relationships that give us grave concerns. These matters we want to personally discuss with you, Mr. Vice President.

The National Congress of American Indians recognizes the extreme importance of the Indian Claims Commission and we strongly believe that an appointment of a recognized Indian citizen be made to the Indian Claims Commission.

Public Law 280 which gives to the various states the right to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction on Indian reservations without Indian consent as far as the American Indians are concerned it is a despicable law.

Public Law 280, if it is not amended, will destroy Indian self-government and result in further loss of Indian lands. On those reservations where states have assumed jurisdiction under the provisions of Public Law 280 lawlessness and crimes have substantially increased and have become known as no man's land because the state and Federal officials will not assume the responsibility of Public Law 280. We urge that Public Law 280 be amended to allow for Indian Consent.

The passage of a legislation ensuring the civil and individual rights of our Indian people is much desired and long overdue. An enactment of Indian Rights Legislation will remove the shackles of prejudice and discrimination. With Indian Rights Legislation we need a new Indian Policy statement that will remove the clouds of threat that hangs over Indian reservations that will terminate Indian and Federal relationship.

The Indian OEO programs have enabled our people to utilize their initiative in designing programs that will enhance their welfare. We earnestly believe that continued fundings of these programs will assist our people in determining their own future and stabilize Indian communities.

The Indian people of this country have an intense and a keen desire to be productive citizens.

In the President's message to Congress today, he has already reassured us of his interest and concern for our people. We in turn renew our pledge of our undying efforts to preserve our country and its freedom. May it continue to be a citadel of freedom.

In your office as Vice President, you have shown us the character, the price and the test of true leadership in these critical times.

We thank you for your foresight and concern.

